

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STRIP FIELD OFFICE
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

CX-AZ-130-2005-0014

PROJECT TITLE: Pakoon Springs Clean-up

PROJECT LEAD: Kathleen Harcksen

PROPOSED ACTION: BLM is proposing to cleanup debris at the Pakoon Springs ranch site, acquired in 2002. BLM would remove by commercial or non-commercial salvage operations, or by burning, crushing, and hauling off site any and all buildings, old trailers, windows, concrete, plumbing parts, vehicles, equipment, machinery, vehicle/machinery/equipment parts, tires, tanks, tools, nuts/bolts/nails, irrigation system parts (located on the surface), fences, corrals, gates, posts, junk, trash, garbage, and/or toxic materials located at the Pakoon Springs Ranch. Machinery to be used could include, but is not limited to: track-laying equipment, backhoes, front-end loaders, cranes, dump trucks and low-boys. The following actions and stipulations would be implemented:

BLM would, between October 15th and March 15th:

- Designate the boundary of the project area on February 2, 2005, which includes:
 - The area previously disturbed which contains items/junk/garbage to be removed, plus
(108 acres – 30.4 acres of the hill which is not disturbed + .2 acres around the well to the north of the corral = 77.8 acres)
 - The area within the project area to be used for staging and salvage operations (5 acres), and install a temporary fence along the base of the knoll to the east, to prevent tortoise from wandering onto the site, plus
 - The location of the septic tank,
 - by flagging the perimeter of each,
- Designate Mike Small as the Field Contact Representative (FCR) responsible for overseeing compliance with the Terms and Conditions from Biological Opinion 2-21-96-F-132,
- The FCR would present a desert tortoise education program to all project personnel that may encounter tortoises.
- BLM has completed a survey for the presence of desert tortoise. No scat, burrows, or other sign of desert tortoise was found at the site. It was determined that, with the exception of the knoll south of the staging area and the wash along the eastern boundary of the property, the site does not contain the primary constituent elements necessary to be considered critical habitat. The use of heavy equipment would be minimized for any cleanup work deemed necessary in these two areas.
- BLM has inventoried for cultural resources, and one potentially historic resource was discovered. This potential resource will be avoided and protected during clean-up activities,
- Confine all clean-up activities to areas previously disturbed, while avoiding the septic tank,

- BLM would comply with ADEQ Smoke Management by obtaining a burn permit from the State,
- Burn or pile and burn all buildings, trailers, and corrals, while, to the extent possible, protecting as many of the large trees as possible,
- Move to the staging area
 - all items to be removed by salvage,
 - residue of burned buildings, and
 - all unburned materials
 And/or load into dump trucks and haul to the dump,
 Shrubs will not be bladed or excavated and damage to shrubs will be avoided, if possible,
- Maintain, if necessary, the southern access route (Gold Butte Road) and/or the Whitney Pass Road to facilitate removal of materials,
- Allow access to and from the project area, by existing routes only,
- Solicit local communities to determine salvage interest, and facilitate such salvage,
- Solicit interest and facilitate salvage activities of commercial salvage companies,
- Ensure a Law Enforcement official would be “on-call” to facilitate public interest during the clean-up activities,

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION: This project area is contained within the 240 acres of private land acquired by the BLM in 2002, and is located at the Pakoon Springs Ranch:

T. 35 N., R. 16 W, SE ¼, Section 24,
 T. 35. N., R. 16 W., N ½ of the NE ¼, Section 25
 Gila and Salt River Meridian
 (See attached maps.)

The project area is contained within the Pakoon Springs grazing allotment. There is currently no grazing permit authorized on the allotment. The base waters, used as preference for the grazing permit, are now in BLM ownership. The project area is located in the Mojave Desert portion of Arizona Game and Fish Game Management Unit 13B.

The project area is located within historic category 3 habitat of the threatened Mojave desert tortoise. Desert tortoise surveys in the surrounding areas have indicated that the site is marginal for the species. Surveys conducted at the site on February 1 and 2, 2005, found no burrows, scat, or other sign or tortoise in the project area. The project area is located outside of the Pakoon Area of Critical Environmental Concern / Desert Wildlife Management Area for desert tortoise. Although the site is surrounded by designated critical habitat for the Mojave desert tortoise, it does not contain the primary constituent elements of critical habitat, and is therefore not considered critical habitat for the species.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan (1992), and the Mojave Desert Tortoise Amendment (1998). The proposed action is in conformance with the RMP.

RP02 Maintain, restore, or improve riparian areas to achieve a healthy and productive ecological condition for maximum long-term benefits. This can be accomplished using fire, mechanical, chemical or biological means.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action is categorically excluded under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4:

H. (10) Removal of structures and materials of non-historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass, and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.

The proposal has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply. Surname(s) verify completion of this review by appropriate specialists.

NAME	LIST OF EXCLUSION CRITERIA
<u> X </u>	1. The proposal would have no adverse effects on public health or safety. (Harcksen)
<u> X </u>	2. The proposal would not adversely affect unique geographic characteristics such as park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. (Harcksen)
<u> X </u>	3. The proposal would have no adverse effects on historic or cultural resources. (Herron)
<u> X </u>	4. The proposal would have no highly controversial environmental effects. (Harcksen)
<u> X </u>	5. The proposal would have no highly uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects nor does it involve unique or unknown environmental risks. (Harcksen)
<u> X </u>	6. The proposal would not establish a precedent for future action or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration with potentially significant environmental effects. (Harcksen)
<u> X </u>	7. The proposal is not directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects: (Harcksen)
<u> X </u>	8. The proposal would not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. (Herron)
<u> X </u>	9. The proposal would not adversely affect a plant species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered and threatened species, nor have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species. (Hughes)
<u> X </u>	10. The proposal would not adversely affect an animal species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered and threatened species, nor have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species. (Herder)
<u> X </u>	11. The proposal would not require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) or Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands). (Harcksen)
<u> X </u>	12. The proposal would not require compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. (Herder)
<u> X </u>	13. The proposal does not threaten to violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. (Benson)

X 14. The proposal is in conformance with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (January, 1992). (Harcksen)

DECISION: We have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposal is in conformance with the approved land use plan, that it would have no significant environmental effects, and that no further environmental analysis is required.

REVIEWED BY: _____ DATE: _____
Environmental Coordinator - Arizona Strip

*IT IS MY DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSAL, WITH THE ATTACHED STIPULATIONS,
AS DESCRIBED.*

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____
Field Manager - Arizona Strip

**Pakoon Clean-up CX
CX-AZ-130-2005-0014**

List of NEPA Reviewers

Mandatory Reviewers:

Gloria Benson, Native American Coordinator
Michelle Bailey, PARA Recreation
Laurie Ford, Lands/Realty/Minerals
Michael Herder, Wildlife
Tim Duck, Fuels Management
John Herron, Cultural
Lee Hughes, Plants
Ray Klein, GCPNM Supervisory Ranger
Linda Price, S&G
Phil Seegmiller, Range
Richard Spotts, Environmental Coordinator
Ron Wadsworth, Supervisory Law Enforcement
Dennis Curtis, GCPNM Manager
Jeff Bradybough, GCPNM Superintendent (Acting)

Discretionary Reviews:

Kari Yanskey, Botany
Bob Smith, Soil, Air and Water

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STRIP FIELD OFFICE
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

CX-AZ-010-2005-0026

PROJECT TITLE: Johnson Waste Wood Disposal

PROJECT LEAD: Aaron Wilkerson

PROPOSED ACTION: The BLM proposes to contract the removal of 25 to 50 thousand cubic yards of waste wood material from approximately 25 acres in Johnson Wash. The Contractor will strip and stockpile top soil and mulch at a 2:1 ratio for rehabilitation purposes prior to removing mulch from the site. The waste wood will then be removed at a rate of approximately 5,000 cubic yards annually. The Contractor will work in 2 to 3 acre increments, completing one area before moving to the next area in sequence.

The Contractor proposes to leave the mulch located in the wash fingers in place while moving toward the main drainage. By landscaping away from the main drainage, the terrain will be sculpted with low rolling contours. Upon completion of a 2-3 acre section, the stockpiled top soil will be replaced and the area will be seeded to grasses and forbs.

The Johnson Wash site was used for decades by Kaibab Industries and later by Larry Reidhead and Danny Peterson to dispose of chips and dust from their sawmill operations. Within recent years, there have been several instances of spontaneous combustion within the chip piles. The resulting fires have been extremely difficult to extinguish and at a considerable expense. This proposal will virtually eliminate the risk of further spontaneous combustion while providing a small income to the Government.

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed project is located in Coconino County, Arizona and is within the area legally described as follows: (map showing project location is attached)

T. 40 N., R. 2 W., sections 3 and 10; Gila and Salt River Meridian

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is consistent with the 1992 Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan, as required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The Proposed

Action was designed in conformance with all bureau standards and incorporates appropriate guidelines for specific required and desired conditions relevant to project activities.

CX-AZ-010-2005-0026

The RMP and Bureau policy make several statements regarding actions to protect public safety.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 6, Appendix 5, C. (5), disposal of small amounts of miscellaneous vegetation products outside established harvest areas.

The application of this categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects which may significantly affect the environment. ~~Clearly state that none of the exceptions apply~~ These extraordinary circumstances are contained in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2. and will be addressed below.

I considered a controlled burning of the site, but the large amounts of smoke and the enormous costs in manpower and equipment would be prohibitive. The proposed action will be less intrusive and will still achieve the desired results.

The proposal has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply. Surname(s) verify completion of this review by appropriate specialists.

NAME	LIST OF EXCLUSION CRITERIA
------	----------------------------

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| <u>Shurtz</u> | 1. The proposal would have no adverse effects on public health or safety. |
| <u>Folks</u> | 2. The proposal would not adversely affect unique geographic characteristics such as park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. |
| <u>Spotts</u> | |
| <u>Herron</u> | 3. The proposal would have no adverse effects on historic or cultural resources. |
| <u>Spotts</u> | 4. The proposal would have no highly controversial environmental effects. |
| <u>Spotts</u> | 5. The proposal would have no highly uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects nor does it involve unique or unknown environmental risks. |
| <u>Spotts</u> | 6. The proposal would not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. |
| <u>Spotts</u> | 7. The proposal is not directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects. |
| <u>Herron</u> | 8. The proposal would not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. |
| <u>Hughes</u> | 9. The proposal would not adversely affect a plant species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered and threatened species, nor have adverse effects on designated |

CX-AZ-010-2005-0026

critical habitat for these species.

Herder 10. The proposal would not adversely affect an animal species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered and threatened species, nor have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species.

Herder 11. The proposal would not require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act:

Benson 12. The proposal does not threaten to violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Spotts 13. The proposal is in conformance with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (January, 1992)

DECISION: We have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposal is in conformance with the approved land use plan, that it would have no significant environmental effects, and that no further environmental analysis is required.

REVIEWED BY: _____ DATE:

Environmental Coordinator - Arizona Strip

IT IS MY DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSAL, AS DESCRIBED, WITH THE STIPULATIONS IN THE ATTACHMENT.

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE:

Field Manager - Arizona Strip

List of Stipulations or Mitigation Measures:

1. The Contractor will operate in accordance with a plan of operations approved by the Contracting Officer.
2. No operations will be allowed during wet or muddy conditions.
3. The BLM will monitor for and eradicate any invasive weeds that may become established as a result of the proposed action.
4. If in connection with operations under this project, the Contractor, his contractors, sub-contractors, or the employees of any of them, discovers, encounters or becomes aware of any objects or sites of cultural value on the project area such as historical or prehistorical ruins, graves or grave markers, fossils, or artifacts, the Contractor will immediately suspend all operations in the vicinity of the cultural value and notify the Authorized Officer of the findings. Operations may resume at the discovery site upon receipt of written instructions and authorization by the Authorized Officer.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STATE OFFICE

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTATION RECORD

Project No: BLM – 130 - 2005 – 038 **Project Name:** Pakoon Ranch Clean-up
Charge Code – ???-??

EA, Job or Case File No.: Cx-AZ-110-2005-0014

Institution:

Cultural Resource Use Permit No:

Inventory Method: ☐ Existing Data Review ☒ Class II ☐ Class III

Eligibility Recommendation (for sites located):

☒ No Cultural Properties present

Not-eligible sites (list site numbers): AZ A:9:9 (BLM) on and at base of Pakoon hill will not be disturbed by clean-up (A single faint boulder glyph, and a series of stone walls of unknown origin)

Eligible sites (list site numbers): AZ A:9:10 (BLM) immediately to the east of the clean-up area and out of the Area of Potential Effect (Vandalized prehistoric structure and rock art).

Effect Recommendation (only on eligible sites from above):

☐ No Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect

Treatment Recommendations: (check and attach full description and map(s) as needed):

☒ Avoidance (by project redesign/cancellation, etc.) Work areas will avoid sites!!

☐ Physical or administrative protection measures

☒ Standard stipulations

☐ Special stipulations

☐ Data recovery (collection, excavation, detailed recording, etc.)

Consultation:

☒ Covered under PA, no further consultation required with SHPO or ACHP

Consultation required: ☐ SHPO ☐ Advisory Council ☐ Native Americans

Comments: Project consists of cleanup of 50 years of accumulated vehicles, house trailers, garbage, junk, and non-historic (less than 50 years old) structures. Only one structure may be historic and it needs some cleanup around it before any further evaluation of its temporal association can be made.

Attachments: CRPR, Standard Stipulations, map

Signed (by archaeologist):

Date: 02/04/2005

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STATE OFFICE

CULTURAL RESOURCE PROJECT RECORD

Project Number: BLM - 130 - 2005 - 038 Other No.: Cx-AZ-130-2005-0014

Project Name: Pakoon Ranch Clean-up Case File No.:

State: **AZ** / CA County: Mohave Map Name(s): Pakoon Springs (7.5')

Township 35 N, Range 16 W, Section 24 SE4

Township 35 N, Range 16 W, Section 25 NE4

Township N, Range W, Section

ASM Quad No(s): AZ A:9:NW

Land Owner(s): **Federal** County Other Private State Unknown

Agency: BLM and Arizona Strip Field Office – Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument

Institution Doing Work: BLM

Person(s)-in-Charge: Kathleen Harcksen – Asst. Monument Manager (GCPNM)

Purpose of Project and Applicant: cleanup

Dates of Fieldwork: / / 2005 to / / 2005 Total Person Days Used:

Cultural Resource Use Permit No.:

Access and Location Description:

Bibliographic Reference(s) (list report title, author, institution and date):

Number of Cultural Properties Recorded: 2 List Site Numbers: AZ A:9:9 and 10 (BLM) neither in clean-up area or where clean-up work would disturb them.

Collections Made: YES NO Testing Done: YES NO

Repository Name and Location:

Photos: **YES** NO Photo Information: digital images

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STATE OFFICE
CULTURAL RESOURCE PROJECT RECORD

Project Number: BLM - 130 - 2005 - 038 Pakoon Ranch Clean-up

INVENTORY TECHNIQUES (if different parts of the project used different techniques, fill out a separate page for each):

Size of Entire Project Area (acres): 78 Crew Size: 2

Project Boundary Description: Proposed width and length

Mode: Pedestrian Dimensions (Miles or feet): _____

Inventory Level (check): Class II* X Class III ____ Judgmental*

Actual Acres Surveyed - Estimated Percent Coverage: 78 acres - 100%+

Field Methods Used (for example, systematic 30 meter-wide parallel transects, etc.):
Plan recordation of existing structures – no detailed building drawings due to recentness
of structures, and hanti-virus potential threat to human health. Area around structures
and field locations for work were looked at and no significant cultural sites were
observed in those areas.

Discussion (justify techniques and methods used): _____

*SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sampling Strategy (check): Systematic ____, Random ____, Stratified ____, Combination
Percent of Project Area Sampled: _____%

Size of Sample Units: _____ Number of Sample Units: _____

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA (optional if covered in report or other document):

Vegetation Types: Mostly disturbed ground with introduced vegetation but a few relict areas contain the native vegetation consisting of Creosote bush.

Major Topographic Features and Locations:

Water Sources and Locations: Pakoon Springs

Other:

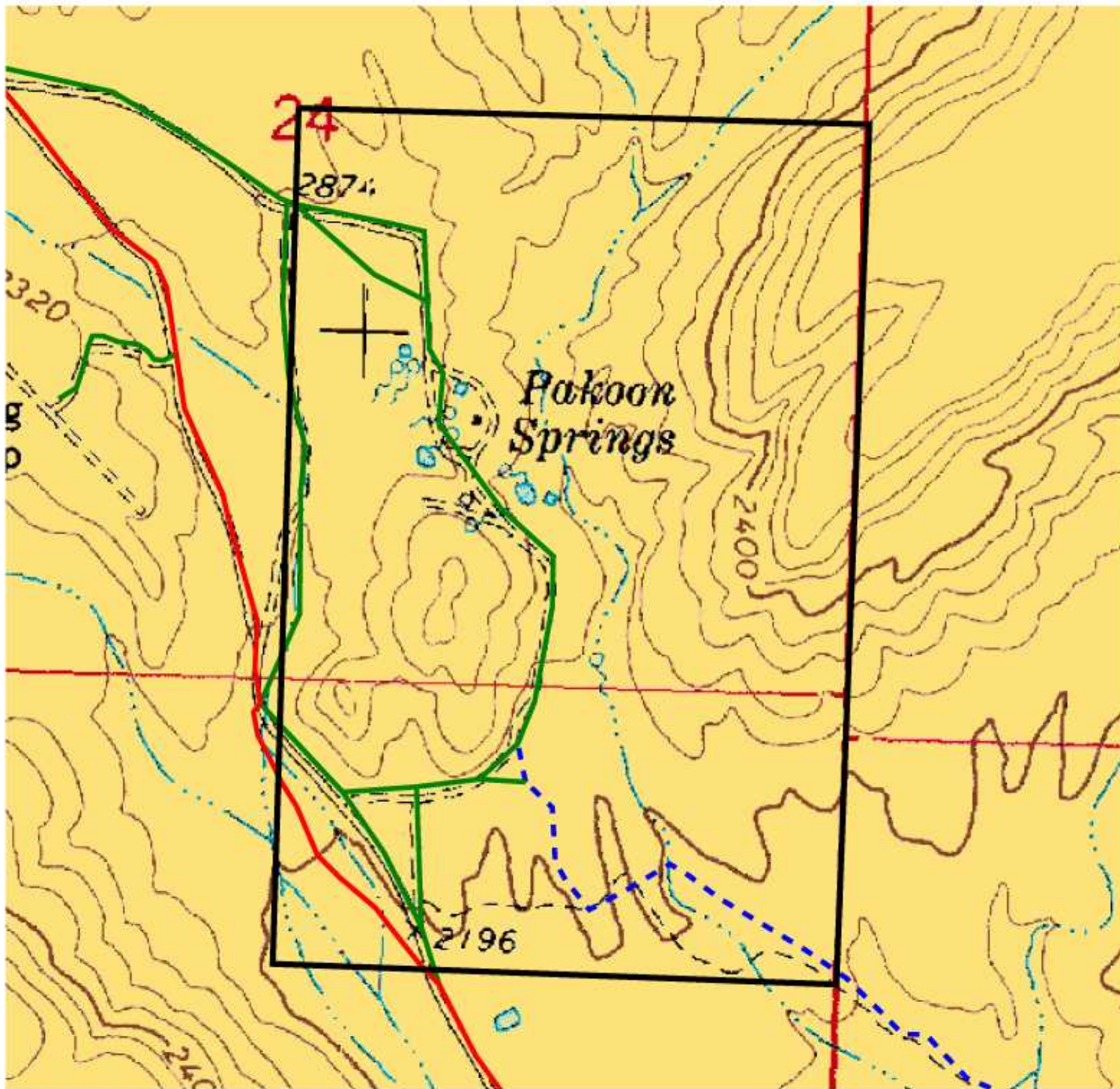
Form Completed By: John M. Herron – BLM Archaeologist Date: 2 / 5 / 2005

Approved By: _____ Date: / / 200

Attach map(s) showing site locations, site numbers, project area boundary, all areas surveyed, and sample units and numbers, if applicable(Zerox(es) of topographic map appropriately labeled).

Pakoon Ranch Clean-up CRPR# AZ-BLM-130-2005-038
Standard Archaeological Stipulations (BLM Project)

1. Any surface, or sub-surface archaeological, historical, or paleontological remains discovered and not covered in the CRPR during clean-up and disposal shall be left intact; all work in the area shall stop immediately and the BLM Office Field Manager for the Arizona Strip (435-688-3301) shall be notified immediately. Commencement of work shall be allowed upon the okay of the BLM Office Field Manager in consultation with the Archaeologist.
2. An additional archaeological survey shall be required in the event the proposed project location is changed, or additional surface disturbing activities are added to the project after the initial survey. Any such survey would have to be completed prior to commencement of the project.
3. If in connection with operations any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601; 104 Stat. 3048; 25 U.S.C. 3001) are discovered, the proponent shall stop operations in the immediate area of the discovery, protect the remains and objects, and immediately notify the Field Office Manager. The proponent shall continue to protect the immediate area of the discovery until notified by the Authorized Officer that operations may resume.



Pakoon Springs Clean-up CX-AZ-130-2005-0014

T. 35 N., R. 16 W., SE ¼, Section 24,
T. 35 N., R. 16 W., N ½ of the NE ¼, Section 25
Gila and Salt River Meridian

No warranty is made by BLM for the use of this map for purposes not intended by BLM, or to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information shown. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

-  Pakoon Ranch
-  Primary Road Unpaved
-  Secondary Road Unpaved
-  Tertiary Road Unpaved
-  Single Track



0

0.5 Miles

Map produced by
Arizona Strip Field Office Staff
6 January 2005